

LUTHERAN SYNOD TO MEET IN WILMINGTON

Membership of Church in United States About 1,900,000—Denomination in United States Holds Its Missionary Spirit.

BY MAMIE BAYS.
The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Carolina are anticipating with special interest and pleasure the one hundred and eighth annual meeting of the synod of that church in this State, which will be held in St. Paul's Church, Wilmington, the coming week, beginning on Wednesday morning.

The report of the synod last published shows that in this State there are 8,977 members of the Lutheran Church, and including members not as yet confirmed, a total membership of 11,385. There was a net gain of 619 members reported to synod one year ago. The Sunday schools include a total membership of 7,091.

The value of churches in the Synod of North Carolina is \$313,462, and the value of parsonages \$5,350. The total amount received last year for the various benevolences of the church was \$21,932.80, an increase of \$12,762.35 over what was contributed the year before. There was contributed to all causes last year a total of \$1,026.69, an increase over the contributions of the year before of \$21,644.41.

Rev. V. Y. Booser, of Lexington, is president of the synod. Rev. J. E. Shenk, of Greensboro, vice-president; Rev. H. A. McCullough, of Albemarle, secretary, and J. D. Iellig, of Salisbury, treasurer. Rev. W. A. Snyder is pastor of the church in Wilmington, for which the meeting of synod this year will be held.

The Synod of North Carolina is only a small part of that great body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is the oldest, and by far the largest, in membership of the Protestant denominations of the world. The membership of this church in the United States is much stronger than is often realized, numbering, as it does, about 1,900,000, and being the third church in numerical strength in this country.

The Lutheran Church has its chief strength in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, the Baltic provinces and the United States. It is estimated that of the 36,000,000 Protestants in Germany, constituting about two-thirds of the total population of the empire, the vast majority are of the line and lineage of Luther, although there is no organical united Lutheran Church in Germany, but thirty-seven different state churches in the twenty-six states, a large proportion being Lutheran. The population of the Scandinavian countries average about 98 per cent. Lutheran.

The earliest representatives of the Lutheran Church in the United States did not come from Germany, as is often supposed, but came from Holland, as part of the Dutch colony that in 1623 took possession of what is now the site of New York City. It was not until after 1763 that the tide of German Lutheran immigration began to flow strongly, and it was not until Henry Melcher Muhlenberg, who was justly called the "father of the American Lutheran Church," arrived in this country, in 1742 that the organization of the work of the church really began. The progress of the Lutheran Church in the United States has been constant from its beginning, and that

same progress continues to-day, and it is probable that the 2,000,000 mark in membership in this country will be reached within a very short time if it has not been reached already.

It is true that the centre of Lutheran strength is to be found in the countries already named, but it is by no means confined to those countries. The influence of this church has spread into Austria, Hungary, Holland, Roumania, Servia, Turkey, Italy, France, England, Scotland, India, China, Africa, Madagascar, Australia and in different parts of South America. The growth in membership has been such in all countries where this church is found that an eminent German statistician estimates its total strength at 56,000,000.

Missionary in Spirit.
The Lutheran Church, by its very constitution, has been missionary in spirit from its beginning. Luther himself was missionary in spirit, and he never lost an opportunity to remind believers of the needs of the heathen, and of the duty of carrying to them the gospel. Very early in its history this church was confronted with the vast importance of activity in home missions. The first work of the church in the interest of foreign missions on a large scale was not begun until Denmark became a maritime country, although Sweden had started work among the Lapps in 1559. Protestant mission work in India was inaugurated by the Lutheran Church in Denmark. It was Ziegenbalg who translated the New Testament into the Tamil language, and it was Christian Frederick Schwartz, who is known as the "father of Lutheran missions," who went out in 1730, and who extended the work which he began in India until it reached into Ceylon, Tanjore and Trichinopoly.

It was the Lutheran Church which was the pioneer of Eastern missions, its work having antedated by 200 years that work of the English churches. Another fact worthy of mention in this connection is that the Carstenz Bible Institute, of Halle, began the circulation of the Scriptures fully a century before the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized.

The Lutheran Church in the United States never has lost its missionary spirit. It has had to face the responsibility and discharge the duty to home missions in an unusual degree, owing to the multitude of people from Lutheran countries who come into the United States every year, but while this is true, the church has kept also the world-vision ever before it and has not diminished its work in foreign lands on account of the vast amount of mission work it has had to do at home.

"Inner Mission" Feature.
One of the most interesting and one of the most helpful features of mission work in the Lutheran Church is that which is known as the "Inner Mission." This mission has a distinctive sphere, which is among the children of the church who are wandering and needy, and its work is to rescue the fallen and to place a safeguard around those who are spiritually imperilled. The method of distinct philanthropy is used in the work of the Inner Mission.

The great truth which burned itself into the soul of Luther was that of



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Justification by faith, and this is the central doctrine of Lutheran theology. The Augsburg Confession is the symbol of the distinctive faith of the Lutheran Church. This is its only Catholic confession, and the only confession which is regarded as binding in many Lutheran churches and countries, while others take the entire Book of Concord as their confessional basis. The Lutheran Church holds the three ecumenical creeds, in common with other orthodox communions.

Lutheranism in the matter of polity holds that the Scripture presents "no specific form of government and discipline of Christ's church," but it always recognizes the universal priesthood of believers and the parity of the clergy as two principles in its polity. The ministry is regarded as an office and not as an order. The government of the church differs somewhat in different countries. It is fundamentally congregational in the United States, with the addition of presbyterial features, the unit being the congregation, the local affairs of which are managed by the council, generally composed of the pastor, elders and deacons.

Liberty is Allowed.
Liturgical in practice the Lutheran Church has been, historically, but in the usage of worship liberty is allowed. It is held to be, in the matter of cultus, "necessary that human traditions, rites, or ceremonies instituted by men should be alike everywhere," but for "the true unity of the church it is sufficient to agree concerning the doctrine of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments."

One of the greatest services of the Lutheran Church to the world is that it has been able to practice the doctrine of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments in a way which it owes a large degree of its great success and its history of which it may be proud, is that of catechization, which is the instruction of the young in the truths of Christian life and the duties which pertain to the same.

The different bodies of the Lutheran Church are as follows: General Synod, organized in 1820, with 241,918 members; General Council, organized in 1857, with 395,243 members; United Synod of the South, organized in 1858, with 44,308 members; Synodical Conference, organized in 1872, with 597,973 members. There are, in addition to these bodies, sixteen independent synods with a combined membership of 583,353. There has been much discussion of the subject of unifying the different bodies of this church, but as yet no plan has been feasible to accomplish this. That which causes the separation of the bodies is for the most part the rigor of confessional spirit and subscription, but national differences are not without their influence in this connection.

Winchester Social News.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Winchester, Va., May 6.—Mrs. Elizabeth A. Horne, who has been visiting Miss Sue Neale, in Richmond, during the past week or two, spent some time in Baltimore before returning to her home in Winchester.

Rev. Father Cowardin, a member of the old and well known Richmond family, of that name, who is now stationed in Boston, has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Weems in Winchester.

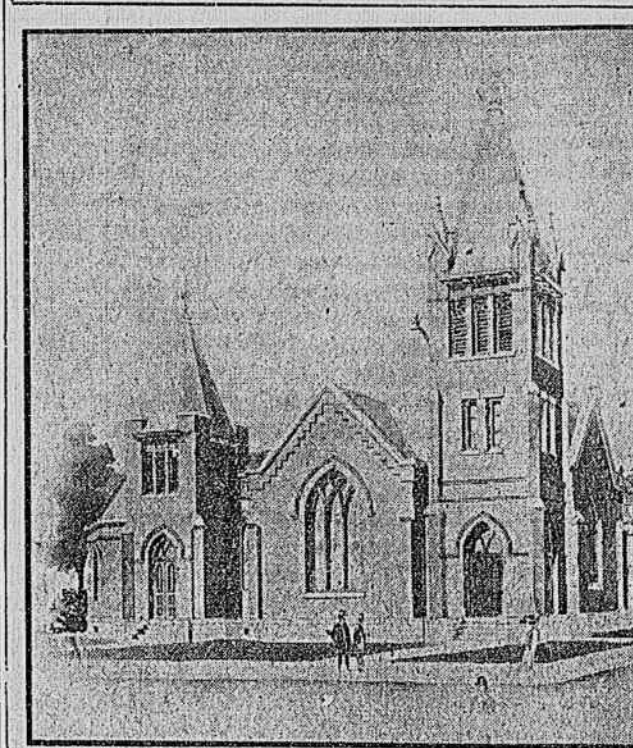
Miss Bessie Ridgway has returned to her home in Winchester, after visiting at the home of Miss Helen Jeter, in Richmond, and friends in Ashland and Baltimore.

Miss Lillian Barnes, of Stephens City, has returned from a visit to friends in Richmond.

Miss Elsie Vinciente, of Baltimore, has been visiting Miss Rose Purcell at her home near Winchester, during the past week.

Mrs. Charles H. Gibson, of New York, and her daughter, Mrs. P. Semple, of Louisville, Ky., who have been spending some time in Winchester.

New Church at South Boston



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have gone to Washington to visit the former's son, Rear-Admiral B. C. Hillyday, of the United States Navy. Dr. Robert W. Stone left Winchester several days ago to visit the summer at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Sem Wessler, in Canada.

Mrs. C. A. Williams returned to Winchester this week after an extended trip to Canada. Mr. Virginia Nulton left Winchester on Thursday to spend some time visiting at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Commander and Mrs. Louis McCoy Nulton, in Annapolis, Md.

Miss Lena Gore, of Winchester, is visiting Mrs. William Davis, at her home in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, in Trinity county, Cal., week to spend the summer with their son, Bowyer B. Brown, in Trinity county, Cal.

Mrs. W. Lee Fisher, of Winchester, has gone on a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Hamilton, at Charlestown.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Glaze left Winchester on Thursday to visit friends in Baltimore.

Miss Florence Broadus, who has been spending some time in Richmond and Southern Virginia, has returned to her home at Berryville.

Dr. Edward McGuire has returned to his home in Richmond, after a short visit to relatives in Winchester.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gudebrod, of Winchester, have been spending some time on their farm in the vicinity of Mount Jackson, Va., during the past week.

Harrisonburg Social News.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Harrisonburg, Va., May 6.—W. L. Stiegel has gone to Pittsburgh and Indiana to visit relatives. Mrs. Ada Vollrath will return from Mississippi in a few days.

Mrs. Nella Patton, formerly of Richmond, who has been seriously ill at Singers Glen, is much better.

Miss Margaret Peale returned Thursday from a visit to Washington.

Mrs. W. L. Yancey is visiting her son, Kemper Yancey, on their recently purchased farm near Crozet, Albemarle county.

Miss Edith Frazer is visiting relatives in Stephens City.

Mrs. Charles E. Loewner returned this week from an extended visit to Kansas City and other Western cities.

Mrs. Arthur and three children, of Union, S. C., are guests of Dr. and Mrs. E. Wilson.

Miss Emma Handy is visiting her cousin, Mrs. Cornell, in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brown, of Lynchburg, have been called to Elkton, Ky., to attend the funeral of Mrs. George Menger, mother of Mrs. Brown.

Miss Sue Brown, who taught at Croftons, has returned to her home in Front Royal.

Miss Constance McCormick, secretary of the Richmond Y. W. C. A., visited her father, W. C. McCormick, here, this week, and addressed the students at the State Normal School Tuesday morning.

Miss Jessie Funkhouser was a recitalist in Martinsburg, W. Va., where they were at the home of Mrs. Charles B. Richardson, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Gould, has returned to her home in Richmond, after visiting her parents here.

Bristol Social News.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Bristol, Va., May 6.—Three gifted piano pupils of Sullivan College, this city, gave their graduating recital in the college chapel on Monday of this week. They were Miss Mary Allen, Whiteaker and Miss Ruth Powell, of this city, and Miss Vete Ventress, of Clanton, Ala. These young women were pupils of Professor Carl Rodell. The recital was attended by a large number of appreciative friends.

Miss Mabel Morris gave a graduating song recital at Virginia Intermont College here on Thursday evening. Miss Morris has a beautiful contralto voice, and her selections were all rendered in a way that demonstrated clearly the splendid range of her voice. Mr. Schrieter, director in piano music, played the accompaniment.

Three graduates of Virginia Intermont College gave their graduating recital on Monday evening. They were Misses Margie Shoemaker, Lillian Hensley and Annie Lee White, all pupils of Mr. Samuel T. Schroeder. The program consisted mainly of piano classics.

Miss Guselle Fields, after a visit to friends at Virginia Intermont College here, has gone to Norfolk to visit. Her home is at Dallas, Tex.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Dickey and children have returned from Captiva, where they spent the winter months in their winter home. They had a most delightful season.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer C. Gray, of Boston, Mass., are guests of Mrs. Gray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Powers.

Mrs. J. C. Wade, Jr., of Big Stone Gap, was the guest of Bristol relatives this week.

Mrs. Robert Gray has returned from Annapolis, Md., and Staunton, where she was the guest of relatives for a few weeks.

Miss Roberta Haynes, after a visit of two weeks to her uncle and aunt, Judge and Mrs. Hal H. Haynes, has returned to Washington.

Mrs. James A. Stone and children are visiting relatives at Greenville, Tenn.

Mrs. John Gemmell and Miss Agnes A. Gemmell left this week for New York. They will go from there to Montreal and Quebec, where they will say good-bye to Canadian friends before sailing for Glasgow, Scotland, where they will visit relatives for several weeks.

From New York they were accompanied by Miss Mabel N. Gemmell, who has just graduated from Pratt Institute.

Miss Pauline Cody is visiting Mrs. Alfred P. Swann at Dandridge, Tenn.

Miss Alma Phillips, of Rogersville, Tenn., is the guest of friends in this city.

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Tan Calf	Pat. Kid	Gun Metal	Patent Colt	Demi Calf
\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50
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\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

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Tenn., is the guest of her cousin, Miss Martha Dooley.

Dr. James W. Graham and family have returned from Alexandria, Va., where they went to attend the funeral of Mrs. Graham's mother.

Durham Social News.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Durham, N. C., May 6.—On Thursday afternoon Mrs. Floyd Lamb was hostess at a very delightful bridge party in honor of Mrs. E. M. McNairy, who is spending the summer at Greensboro. The party home was replete with the fragrance of spring blossoms, which adorned the rooms in which the tables were arranged for the game. After the interesting game a delicious ice course was served at the small tables, during which the prizes for the highest score in the game were awarded. Mrs. Annie Long, Mrs. S. C. Brawley and Mrs. McNairy were the lucky ones, receiving exquisite hand-drawn shirtings for their skill. Assisting the hostess were Misses Willie Cox and Mary Bryan Griswold.

The Roundabout Club was charmingly entertained on Friday afternoon by Mrs. B. L. Tyree. The attractive home was beautifully decorated with flowers, and the tables were set with roses and great branches of dogwood were used with artistic effect about the rooms where the tables were placed.

On Saturday afternoon Mrs. H. L. Tyree was hostess again at a lovely party, at which she entertained a number of friends. The attractive home was fragrant with masses of lovely blossoms.

Mrs. J. S. Duncan entertained very delightfully on Thursday morning at her home in North Durham. The reception suite was beautifully decorated with lovely plants and cut flowers, which in artistic profusion about the rooms. The interesting game concluded with a luncheon served on the card tables.

Mrs. J. S. Carr, Jr., who went to Atlanta to attend grand opera, is spending some time as the guest of Miss Martha Boynton, who entertained delightfully in her home on Tuesday. Mrs. Carr was the guest of honor at several other lovely affairs.

One of the interesting events of the week was an exhibit of the drawing and handwork of the pupils of the different city schools, which attracted much attention, especially among the patrons of the school.

There was a very interesting meeting of the King's Daughters on Tuesday afternoon, at which time a very excellent report of work accomplished during the last year was read. The meeting was read, then, the new five old women at the home, and other requests for admission have been sent to the ladies.

Mrs. J. W. Cannon, of Concord, is on a visit to the family of J. S. Carr, Jr.

Mrs. N. M. Williamson, of New York, is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. J. Griswold.

Mrs. J. Harper Erwin has returned from an extended visit to friends and relatives in Atlanta, and several other places in that State.

Mrs. I. E. Hill is home from Hollins Institute, where she went to witness the May Day play, presented by the students, which was well received by her daughter, Miss Douglas Hill, who is a pupil in that school. Miss Hill has displayed unusual talent as a writer for one so young.

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and Diseases of the Stomach and Intestines

may be speedily relieved and in a short time entirely cured by a safe and absolutely harmless remedy, recommended by the medical profession of Europe.

Stomax

as this remedy is named, is introduced to the American public as the best and safest treatment in all cases of weak, sluggish and impaired digestion, indicated by the following symptoms: Coated tongue, lack of appetite, vomiting, jaundice, burning pains in stomach, headache, acidity, dizziness, constipation, cold, general depression, aversion to certain foods, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, flatulence, stomachache, etc.

Stomax is prepared by Sals de Carlos, a physician, surgeon and pharmacist of highest standing.

Important. Stomax cures. It is not a mere stimulant, making the patient the victim of a medicine habit, but restores the digestive functions to robust health, with the capacity to do their work without further aid. For Sale by all Druggists.

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South Boston Social News.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
South Boston, Va., May 6.—Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Davis, of this place, left Friday for a two weeks' visit to Canada to attend the Grand Division Order of Railway Telegraphers. They will also visit Niagara Falls and other points of interest before their return.

Mrs. J. W. McCleskey returned several days ago from Harrisonburg, where she went to visit her husband, who was sick at that place.

Miss Eliza Collins, of Dillwyn, and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Griffin, of Richmond, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Patterson during the week.

Miss Mary Coleman, of South Carolina, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Coleman, at this place.

Frank B. Yancey, of Richmond, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Yancey, here last Sunday.

Julian East, of Altavista, spent last Sunday in South Boston.

Mrs. J. W. McCleskey, of Chatham, was at home for a few days this week. She is attending the Episcopal school at Chatham.

Miss Laura Atkinson, who has been visiting Mrs. E. C. James, has returned to Richmond.

Mrs. H. A. Thomas, of this place, visited her parents at Keyaville, this week.

Mrs. W. T. Lea, of this place, is visiting friends in Danville.

Mrs. James Adams, of Roanoke, visited her aunt, Mrs. B. J. Smith, at

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